KENNEDY IS DEAD

Wife at Side as End Comes

By WALTER R. MEARS
and
JOSEPH E. MOHBAT

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, felled like his President brother by an assassin's bullet, died early today.

His mourning family prepared to take his body home to New York, across the nation Kennedy had hoped to lead as President.

AND ON SATURDAY, the senator is to be buried in Arlington National Cemetery, probably at the hilltop plot which is the resting place of his brother, the late John F. Kennedy.

Robert Kennedy, 42, never regained consciousness, never showed signs of recovery after a savage burst of revolver fire sent a bullet plunging into his brain—at the pinnacle of his campaign for the White House.

Kennedy, his pregnant wife Ethel at his bedside, died at 1:44 a. m., PDT, little more than 25 hours after the assault at the Ambassador Hotel.

KENNEDY'S BODY left Good Samaritan Hospital in a blue and gray hearse today on the first leg of a journey across the country. The hearse headed for Los Angeles International Airport where the body was to be placed aboard a White House jet for a flight to New York.

Pierre Salinger, former presidential press secretary, said the body would lie in state tomorrow at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City.

A requiem Mass will be held there Saturday morning. Salinger said Kennedy would be buried about 5:30 p.m. Saturday in Arlington, across the Potomac River from Washington, where an eternal flame flickers in memory of John

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SIRHANS WIRE RFK'S

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — The family of the accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy sent a telegram to the Kennedy family today, saying, "We pray that God will make peace, really peace, in the hearts of people."

The telegram was signed by Mrs. Mary Sirhan, mother of Sirhan Bishari Sirhan.

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Kennedy, slain four years and seven months ago.

PATHOLOGISTS MADE a six-hour examination of the body of Sen. Kennedy today seeking the exact cause of death and the extent of damage from an assassin's bullet.

Findings were to be released later.

The autopsy, performed by a team headed by Dr. Thomas Noguchi, the county coroner's chief medical examiner, started about 3 a. m. and ended shortly after 9 a. m., a spokesman said.

President Johnson, the man who succeeded President Kennedy, issued a proclamation calling for a national day of mourning for the senator next Sunday.

Gov. Ronald Reagan declared a state of mourning in California, for the period through the senator's funeral.

AS KENNEDY DIED, the man accused of shooting him was under heavy guard at a downtown prison hospital, held in $250,000 bail for a court appearance which had been scheduled Monday.

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan was accused of wielding the .22-caliber revolver which cut down Kennedy and wounded five other people early Wednesday as the senator and his supporters celebrated victory in the California presidential primary.

A grand jury hearing into Kennedy's assassination was scheduled for tomorrow morning.

A SPOKESMAN for Los Angeles Dist. Atty. J. Evelle Younger said an indictment will be sought against Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, already jailed on a formal charge of assault with intent to commit murder.

The spokesman, Jerry Littman, did not specify what charge would be sought. He said plans are to conduct a trial soon if an indictment is returned.

Littman said the only witnesses called at the secret hearing would be those who saw the Ambassador Hotel shooting early Wednesday, after Kennedy's primary election victory celebration.

LITTMAN QUOTED from California law which said "the grand jury is not required to hear evidence for the defendant, but it shall weigh all evidence submitted to it."

Charging by indictment rather than through an information—the type of charge Sirhan faces now—eliminates the legal step of a preliminary hearing, an open session.

Instead, the case would go directly to trial.

THE LOS ANGELES sheriff's office refused to say whether Sirhan had been advised that Kennedy was dead.

Sirhan, a Jordanian who had been living in Pasadena, was described by those who knew him as a man inflamed over the hostilities between his native state and Israel. A former employer said he might have been enraged by Kennedy's past words of support for Israel.

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HE SAID "the bullet that went into the head near the right ear" was the fatal shot. It entered Kennedy's brain. Surgeons operated for three hours and 40 minutes to remove all but a fragment in a vain attempt to save the senator's life.

But Kennedy never rallied.

"It was not a question of his sinking," Mankiewicz said, "but of not rising. He needed a rally and steady improvement in his condition, and that did not develop."

The body was to be taken from Los Angeles between 12 and 1 p. m. PDT. An earlier departure had been expected at first, but the time was moved back because the autopsy examination of the senator's body took longer than expected.

KENNEDY AIDES announced that at least 33 family members, friends and assistants would be aboard the Air Force jet on the flight to New York.

Among them were Kennedy's widow, three of his children, his brother, Edward; two of his sisters, and Mrs. John Kennedy.

Another passenger was to be Mrs. Martin Luther King, whose husband fell prey to an assassin on April 4.

SALINGER, ONCE press secretary to John Kennedy, announced the funeral arrangements for Robert.

He said the body will lie in state at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York tomorrow from 8 a. m. EDT until 10 p. m. EDT.

The Requiem Mass will be held at 10 a. m. Saturday.

The body will be placed on a train at 12:30 p. m. for the last journey to Washington. It is expected to arrive at about 4:40 p. m.

THE FUNERAL route will take the cortege past the U. S. Senate Office Building where Kennedy worked, and the Department of Justice